Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following paragraph at page 1, line 14:

--This application claims benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §371 to PCT application No. PCT/US99/25477, filed October 29, 1999, which claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119 to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/106,533, filed on October 31, 1998, whose contents are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--***in situ PCR and Hybridization***

PEC were fixed onto glass slides with 4% paraformaldehyde, washed and dehydrated. The cells were then permeabilized with proteinase K and sealed with the PCR mixture containing the *neo* specific primers 5'-CAGGATGATCTGGACGA (SEQ ID NO:1) and 3'-TGGATGCCGACGGATTTGCA (SEQ ID NO:2). Cycling conditions were 94°C, 1 min., 55°C, 1 min., 72°C, 1 min. 30 sec., for 30 cycles. After the PCR reaction was completed, the slides were washed and incubated with the hybridization mixture containing a 404 bp *neo*-specific biotinylated probe complementary to the PCR amplified sequence excluding the primer region. Streptavidin was then added (to amplify the signal) followed by biotin-conjugated alkaline phosphatase. Color was developed using BCIP/NBT[25]. The cells were analyzed on a Bright-field phase, differential interference contrast microscope. Images were captured using a Dage CCD72 camera and Dage DSP2000 digital signal processor (capable of on-chip